

REMARKS

The Present Invention and Pending Claims

Claims 1-28 are currently pending. Claims 1-16 are directed to a retainer clip for retaining a flanged sink to a countertop. Claim 17-28, which were previously allowed, are directed to a combination of a sink and a plurality of retainer clips. Reconsideration of pending claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

Summary Of The Office Action of January 10, 2003

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 17-28 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 12 and 13 stand rejected, and claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8-11 and 14-16 stand objected to, but, as indicated in the Office Action, would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to the rejection of claim 12, claim 12 was indicated allowable if rewritten to depend upon claim 11, rather than upon itself.

The rejection of claims 1-2, 5 and 13 was made under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the basis that these claims are anticipated by U.S. patent 3,229,310 to Enschede. The Office Action asserts that Enschede discloses a retaining device for fastening a sink to a countertop which includes, *inter alia*, a ratchet plate "mountable" to an edge of a countertop, and a pawl "mountable" to the sink.

The Amendments to the Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the time he spent yesterday, June 9, 2003, in a telephonic interview to discuss the claims and his rejections, and to consider the amendments to the claims which are formally made herein.

The substantive amendments made to claims 1, 12 and 13 respond to the rejections made under Enschede. The amendments to claims 11 and 26 are made for clarity and are not intended to change the meaning or scope of these claims.

Specifically, the substantive amendments to claims 1, 12 and 13 were discussed with the Examiner during the telephonic interview of June 9, and these claims as amended were indicated allowable by him over the previously cited patents to Enschede and Mutz (U.S. patent 5,653,550).

The claims, as amended, now provide that the ratchet plate and pawl of the retainer clip, when mounting a flanged sink to a countertop, are mounted, respectively, to an edge of the countertop and the sink. Moreover, the orientation of the front face of the ratchet plate is affirmatively recited as sinkwardly directed. These amendments appear in claims 1 and 11


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and distinguish these claims, as well as the claims depending therefrom, from both the Enschede and Mutz references.

Conclusion

The application as amended is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, further issues remain upon consideration of this response to the Office Action of January 10, 2003, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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